

25° of the zenith, by solid masses of luminous bodies, of various magnitudes and surprising brilliancy, which darted in dazzling confusion across his vision, and again several hundred of these meteors of different sizes would be observed at the same time, all emitting the most intense light, and the nebulae of the largest lasting sometimes three minutes. One of these monsters shone with a distinctive brightness above that of the moon, as it issued from about 15° of the north star, and passed vertically below the horizon, giving forth as it fell coruscations of various bright colors, and when disappearing its nebulae resembled a waterspout in high latitudes. It was not until quite 6.30 A.M. that the approaching dawn began to dim the glory of this fiery exhibition, and the rising sun soon brought an end to the exciting display.

These accounts are interesting and valuable as showing that the relative position of the several branches of the grand meteoric stream was quite different from that observed when the earth passed through it the year previous.

The observations of 1866 afforded no ground for expecting this Asiatic display of 1867.

Nominations Nos. 586, 587 and 588 were read.

On motion it was ordered that the North China branch of the Royal Asiatic Society be placed on the list of corresponding societies for exchange.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, April 3, 1868.*

Present, sixteen members.

Dr. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read: From the University at Lund, in Sweden, dated March 9, 1868, inviting attendance at the celebration of their 200th anniversary, commencing on the 6th of June, 1868. When, on motion, the President was authorized to appoint one or more members of this Society to attend this anniversary celebration. From the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, March 24, 1868, requesting information

of any records in the Society's Library concerning the amount of rain-fall in the United States; from the Portland Society of Natural History, March 30, 1868, requesting to be supplied with copies of the Proceedings of this Society; and from the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, Sept. 24, 1867, soliciting an exchange of the publications. Also, from the Natural History Society at Altenberg, Nov. 15, 1867; from the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, Sept. 24, 1867, and from the Secretary of State for Canada, March 16, 1868, announcing donations for the Library; and the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences, accompanying a donation for the Library, and returning thanks for Nos. 75 and 76 of the Proceedings.

Donations for the Library were announced: From Academies,—the Royal Bavarian, of Sciences, and the American, of Arts and Sciences at Boston. From Societies,—the German Union at Altenberg; of Arts, at London; the Geological, of London; the Meteorological, of London; the Philosophical, of Glasgow; the Geological, of Glasgow; the Cambridge Mass. Philosophical; the Boston Natural History; and the Chicago Historical: from the Secretary of State for Canada; from the Chicago Reform School; the Public Library of Cincinnati; the Franklin Institute, and from Dr. S. W. Beckwith, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Thomas P. James related some incidents which had occurred with regard to the Pursh MS. Journal, which he had recently obtained permission of the Society to publish. Having that object in view, in a measure, he read interesting and amusing portions at the supper given in New York by the Botanical Club in honor of Dr. John Torrey; whereupon, Prof. Gray remarked that he had a map which was evidently one used by Pursh on this route, and which he would take pleasure in presenting to the Society. The report of the doings at this supper were published, and being read by Prof. E. Tuckerman of Amherst, it induced him to communicate to Mr. James the history of the map and the manner of its return to this country. Prof. Tuckerman attended the sale of the Botanical Museum of A. B. Lambert, Esq., the well-

known patron of Pursh, at London, in June, 1842, and he bought two of the lots, one "a small collection of good North American plants, of Nuttall, Baldwin, Frazer, Booth, and others, including many species from Labrador, about 150 plants, a small cabinet," the other "a bundle of miscellaneous plants, North America, &c.," and upon examining the contents of the latter, he found this map, which he presented to Prof. Gray; the plants comprised those of Pursh's collections that were not mounted (the two packages he gave to the Academy of Natural Sciences). The Journal and map are now, after a separation of sixty years, united, and in the possession of this Society. The map is a copy which he made of an old damaged one, found at the tavern at Muni-sink, on the 12th June, 1807.

On motion, ordered that the Philosophical Society of Glasgow be placed on the list of corresponding societies.

Pending nominations Nos. 586, 587 and 588 were read.

On motion, it was resolved that the letter of Prof. Henry be referred to Dr. Coates, with a request that he will communicate to Prof. Henry the observations on rain-fall made at the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Dr. Hayden gave an account of the series of Indian photographs which he had procured for the Society.

On motion, ordered that the Treasurer be instructed to pay the bill for the photograph Indian representations.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, April 17, 1868.*

Present, fourteen members.

Prof. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read: From the Royal Academy of Sciences at Amsterdam, Oct. 12, 1867; from the Royal Saxon Society of Sciences at Leipsig, Nov. 29, 1867; and from the Holland Society of Sciences at Harlem, Jan. 12, 1868, each accompanying donations for the Library; and from the Royal